



**CONGRESO MUNDIAL DE LA NATURALEZA DE LA UICN
3-10 de septiembre de 2021, Marsella, Francia**

**Período de gracia para el pago de las cuotas de membresía de 2020
a la luz de las circunstancias excepcionales generadas por la
pandemia de COVID-19**

Acción solicitada: Se invita al Congreso Mundial de la Naturaleza a CONSIDERAR el siguiente proyecto de decisión propuesto por el Consejo de la UICN.

PROYECTO DE DECISIÓN

El Congreso Mundial de la Naturaleza de la UICN,

Habiendo considerado la propuesta del Consejo de la UICN en respuesta a las solicitudes de varios Miembros de la UICN que se enfrentan a dificultades financieras a consecuencia de la pandemia de COVID-19;

Decide, a la luz de las circunstancias excepcionales generadas por la pandemia, otorgar a los Miembros de la UICN enumerados en anexo¹ de esta moción y que han declarado presentar un retraso en el pago de sus cuotas 2020 a consecuencia directa de la pandemia mientras están al día con el pago de las cuotas de todos los años anteriores, un período de gracia para el pago de las cuotas 2020 hasta el 31 de diciembre 2021 y, excepcionalmente, la suspensión de la aplicación del artículo 13 (a) de los Estatutos hasta el final de dicho período de gracia, permitiendo así a los Miembros de la UICN ejercer todos sus derechos de membresía, incluso en relación con las elecciones, votaciones y mociones, desde la entrada en vigor de esta decisión y hasta el final del período de gracia.

Decide que esta decisión entrará en vigor a partir del final de la 1^a sesión de la Asamblea de Miembros, el 4 de septiembre de 2021.

EXPOSICIÓN DE MOTIVOS

Propuesta del Consejo

En respuesta a las solicitudes de varios Miembros de la UICN que se enfrentan a dificultades financieras a consecuencia de la pandemia de COVID-19, el Consejo de la UICN, a propuesta de su Junta Directiva, propone que se otorgue a los Miembros de la UICN que presenten un retraso en el pago de sus cuotas de membresía 2020 a consecuencia directa de la pandemia, mientras están al día con el pago de las cuotas de todos los años anteriores, un período de gracia para el pago de las cuotas 2020 hasta el 31 de diciembre de 2021, para que éstos puedan ejercer sus derechos de membresía durante el próximo Congreso ([Decisión de la Junta Directiva B96/4](#), aprobada por el Consejo el 2 de agosto de 2021, [decisión C/XXIV](#)).

¹ Se establecerá y publicará después del plazo de presentación de solicitudes (20 de agosto de 2021).

Debido a que los Estatutos de la UICN no prevén la posibilidad de otorgar una excepción a su artículo 13 sobre las consecuencias de un retraso en el pago de las cuotas de membresía sobre los derechos de los Miembros, ni de evitar la suspensión de los derechos de un Miembro a consecuencia de tal retraso, el Consejo de la UICN, a propuesta de su Junta Directiva, decidió someter su propuesta a la decisión del Congreso Mundial de la Naturaleza.

El fundamento de la propuesta, así como las preocupaciones expresadas por la Secretaría y la Asesora Jurídica acerca de la misma, se presentan en los extractos del Resumen de la 94^a reunión de la Junta Directiva y del Acta resumida de la 96^a reunión de la Junta Directiva (adjuntos a continuación).

La propuesta, si se aprueba, implicaría una reducción de los ingresos de la UICN del orden de 215.000 francos suizos, en el supuesto de que los 83 Miembros que no han pagado sus cuotas de membresía 2020 mientras están al día con todas las cuotas de años anteriores no pagarían las cuotas 2020 antes de finales de 2021.

Proceso

Con el acuerdo de la Junta Directiva, la Secretaría aplicó el siguiente mecanismo para determinar qué Miembros de la UICN podrían beneficiarse del período de gracia, si la propuesta del Consejo fuera adoptada por los Miembros de la UICN:

- a. la Secretaría invitó a los 83 Miembros de la UICN que no han pagado sus cuotas de membresía 2020 mientras están al día con todas las cuotas de años anteriores (al 2 de agosto de 2021) a publicar en una página del Portal de la Unión, antes del 20 de agosto de 2021, una declaración jurada de que dicho retraso es consecuencia de la pandemia de COVID-19, acompañada de la solicitud de que se les conceda un período de gracia que finalizaría el 31 de diciembre de 2021 para pagar sus cuotas, y que se suspenda la aplicación del artículo 13 (a) de los Estatutos hasta el final de dicho período de gracia;
- b. Todas las declaraciones de Miembros recibidas en la página del Portal de la Unión antes del 20 de agosto de 2021 se adjuntan a la presente moción² y se han publicado como documento oficial del Congreso.

Entrada en vigor

Para permitir que los Miembros de la UICN afectados por la presente moción del Consejo voten en las elecciones y otros puntos de decisión durante el Congreso, se presenta a la Asamblea de Miembros para su consideración y decisión en su 1^a sesión, el 4 de septiembre de 2021.

Por lo tanto, si se aprueba, la moción entrará en vigor a partir del final de la 1^a sesión de la Asamblea de Miembros, el 4 de septiembre de 2021, a tiempo para la votación en línea sobre las elecciones que se iniciará el 4 de septiembre de 2021.

Con base en el asesoramiento de la Asesora Jurídica de la UICN, la moción requiere una mayoría de dos tercios de los votos emitidos en Cat. A y una mayoría de dos tercios de los votos emitidos en Cat. B y C combinados (Art. 107 de los Estatutos) porque tal decisión significaría suspender la aplicación del Art. 13 (a) de los Estatutos o no aplicar esta disposición legal en una situación concreta debido a las circunstancias excepcionales de la pandemia. Dicha decisión excepcional tendría el mismo efecto que una enmienda en el

² Se establecerá y publicará después del plazo de presentación de solicitudes (20 de agosto de 2021).

caso concreto y, por lo tanto, solo podría adoptarse con la misma mayoría que para una enmienda del art. 13 de los Estatutos.

En caso de que la moción sea aprobada durante la 1^a sesión, la Secretaría hará los ajustes necesarios en los distintos sistemas del Congreso para corregir los datos de acreditación de estos Miembros de acuerdo con la decisión, ya que estos datos alimentan al sistema de votación en línea para las elecciones y al sistema de votación electrónica en el sitio del Congreso para mociones y otras decisiones. Esto permitirá a los Miembros de la UICN que se beneficien del período de gracia emitir su voto durante la votación en línea sobre las elecciones que se iniciará el 4 de septiembre de 2021, así como para cualquier otro punto de decisión a partir de la 2^a sesión de la Asamblea de Miembros (que se iniciará el 8 de septiembre de 2021), ya sea por medio de su delegación presente *in situ* o por voto delegado.

Estos ajustes podrían implicar un retraso de 3 a 6 horas en el inicio de la votación en línea sobre las elecciones, mientras que el cierre de las elecciones en línea se mantendría a las 18h00 UTC del 7 de septiembre de 2021.

Consecuencias sobre los derechos de los Miembros de la UICN en caso de adopción

Se alienta a los Miembros de la UICN que figuren en el Anexo de esta moción a pagar sus cuotas para los años 2020 y 2021 antes del 31 de diciembre de 2021, ya que después de esa fecha, el período de gracia terminará.

Esto significa que, en aplicación del artículo 13 (a) y (b) de los Estatutos, los Miembros de la UICN:

- i. que hayan pagado su cuota 2020 pero no la de 2021 antes del 31 de diciembre de 2021 se considerarán como presentando un retraso de pago de un año, lo que implicará *ipso facto* la suspensión de sus derechos en relación con las elecciones, las votaciones y las mociones a partir del 1 de enero de 2022;
- ii. que no hayan pagado sus cuotas 2020 ni 2021 al 31 de diciembre de 2021 se considerarán como presentando un retraso de pago de dos años, lo que podrá conducir, además de la suspensión indicada al párrafo i), a la rescisión de todos los derechos restantes, sujeto a una decisión del Congreso Mundial.

Organisations who applied for a grace period for the payment of IUCN membership dues for 2020 before the 20 August 2021 deadline

Organisations qui ont demandé une période de grâce pour le paiement de la cotisation 2020, avant le délai du 20 août 2021

Organizaciones que solicitaron un período de gracia para el pago de las cuotas de membresía de la UICN para 2020 antes de la fecha límite del 20 de agosto de 2021

| | | | |
|----|--|----------|--|
| 1 | Association Vive le Paysan Nouveau | NG/24879 | Benin/Bénin |
| 2 | Madagascar Institut pour la Conservation des Ecosystèmes Tropicaux | NG/25724 | Madagascar |
| 3 | Réseau Association Khnifiss | NG/25722 | Morocco/Maroc/Marreucos |
| 4 | RIAT-Congo | NG/25017 | Congo |
| 5 | Centre for Environmental Studies and Development in Cameroon | NG/1413 | Cameroon/Cameroun/Camerún |
| 6 | Mai Khao Marine Turtle Foundation | NG/25445 | Thailand/Thaïlande/Tailandia |
| 7 | Fiji Department of Environment | ST/25110 | Fiji/Fidji |
| 8 | Nature Conservation Union of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, NCUK (DPR) | NG/229 | Democratic Republic of Korea (DPR)/ République démocratique de Corée República democrática de corea |
| 9 | Asociación Club de Jóvenes Ambientalistas | NG/24694 | Nicaragua |
| 10 | Fundación Hondureña de Ambiente y Desarrollo VIDA | NG/1448 | Honduras |



INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

94th Meeting of the Bureau of the IUCN Council

Held by conference call on 15 June at 2 PM UTC and 21 June 2021 at 10 AM UTC

Extract from the Summary

[...]

Agenda Item 6: Members facing difficult financial situations and unable to pay their full dues as a result of the pandemic

Enrique Lahmann, Global Director Union Development Group and Sandrine Friedli Cela, Legal Adviser repeated the highlights from their presentation made during the 93rd Bureau meeting. (*B93/2 PPT Members facing difficult financial situations*)

During the discussion, some Bureau members acknowledged that less Members than anticipated were affected by this issue and adopting special measures might open the door for more requests.

Other members of the Bureau were of the view that a number, albeit small, of IUCN Members were facing significant distress as a result of the pandemic which justified a response given the exceptional circumstance of the pandemic. Among the solutions mentioned were:

- a) a Council decision to postpone the obligation to pay the dues for 1 year for Members formally requesting it. If they were unable to pay within 1 year, then normal statutory requirements would again prevail;
- b) a Council decision to submit a motion to Congress for approval during the 1st sitting of the Members' Assembly allowing postponement of dues for the Members facing financial distress as a direct result of the pandemic. This would require a mechanism allowing Members to successfully petition in advance of the Congress so that, if approved by Congress, they can exercise their Member rights during Congress.

The Global Director Union Development Group reminded the Bureau of the fact that, statistically, there was no difference between the number of Members in arrears before and after the beginning of the pandemic and that, in fact, more dues have been received in 2021 than at this same time in 2020. When Council approved the Membership Dues Guide 2022-24 in September 2020, it also established a lower dues category for Members with less income, as well as a motion to Congress requesting the next Council to study the issue of Members facing financial difficulties (including as a result of the pandemic). He suggested that, before taking a decision, the Secretariat studies the practical issues such as the mechanism by which to identify Members who would be entitled. Also, if it depended on a decision of the Congress, it could not apply to the Members voting online for elections if they were opened prior to the Members' Assembly. He also raised a capacity issue for the Secretariat because, so close to the beginning of the Congress, the entire Membership Unit (1.6 FTE) was fully engaged in preparations for the Congress.

The Legal Adviser reminded the Bureau that Article 13 of the Statutes provided the automatic suspension of a Member's rights if their dues are one year in arrears and that it was the Members' prerogative to provide exceptions to the Statutes. A Council decision could be contested at the Congress for non-conformity with the Statutes, in particular by Members who are facing problems to pay their dues for reasons other than the pandemic.

The IUCN President cautioned that, while it was acceptable for Council and Congress to request the next Council to study how to address for the long term the issue of Members facing financial problems, ignoring the impact of the pandemic on IUCN's Members would raise ethical and political issues and badly affect IUCN's credibility. While individual cases of Members not paying, e.g. because of economic reasons, could be dealt with on a case by case

basis, it was different for the problems caused by the pandemic which is a global crisis. He suggested that in the proposal [*described in littera b) above*], Members would qualify only if they had been in order with paying their dues prior to 2020.

On the proposal of the IUCN President, the Bureau decided to present this proposal [*described in littera b) above*] to the Council at its 104th meeting together with the background material provided by Secretariat and that the Secretariat be given time to study a mechanism.

BUREAU DECISION B94/3

The Bureau of the IUCN Council,

Having considered the requests from a number of IUCN Members facing financial difficulties as a result from the Covid-19 pandemic,

Decides to present to the IUCN Council for its consideration at its 104th meeting, together with the background material provided by the Secretariat, a proposal that Council submits to the IUCN World Conservation Congress (Marseille, 3-10 September 2021) for approval a motion granting postponement of the obligation to pay the 2020 dues to IUCN Members which have been in arrears of paying them as a direct result from the pandemic, so that these Members may exercise their membership rights during the 2021 Congress;

Requests the Secretariat, if Council so decides, to develop a mechanism to identify IUCN Members meeting the requirements of Council's proposal to Congress [*in time for the Bureau to approve the mechanism as well as the text of the Council motion*].

94th Meeting of the Bureau of the IUCN Council, 15 and 21 June 2021

List of attendees

PRESIDENT

- Zhang Xinsheng

VICE-PRESIDENTS

- John Robinson
- Ana Tira

TREASURER

- Nihal Welikala (only present on 15 June 2021)

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMISSION CHAIRS

- Antonio Benjamin, Chair of the World Commission on Environmental Law

CHAIRS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE IUCN COUNCIL

- Jennifer Mohamed-Katerere, Governance and Constituency Committee (GCC)
- Ayman Rabi, Finance and Audit Committee (FAC)
- Jan Olov Westerberg, Programme and Policy Committee (PPC)

REGIONAL COUNCILLORS

- Mamadou Diallo
- Jenny Gruenberger

DIRECTOR GENERAL

- Bruno Oberle

OTHER PARTICIPANTS:

Sandrine Friedli Cela, IUCN Legal Adviser

Enrique Lahmann, Global Director Union Development Group

Louise Imbsen, Governance Assistant

Luc De Wever, Senior Governance Manager, Secretary to Council



Members facing difficult financial situations and unable to pay their full dues as a result of the pandemic

Important facts and figures

- Based on a proposal from Council, approved in September 2020 (100th Council), Members approved, by online vote in February 2021, the Dues Guide, including the dues reassessment process (taking effect in 2022) and gave a mandate to the 2021-2024 Council to study the issue of Members facing difficult financial situations (slide 2)
- Members facing difficult situations to pay their 2020-2021 dues, will have until 2024 to regularize their dues situation until they are withdrawn by rescission (Art.13 of the Statutes)
- Figures from past years do show that there have always been issues of Members facing difficulties to pay their dues (slide 3 and 4). Making an exception now will create a precedent.



Members facing difficult financial situations and unable to pay their full dues as a result of the pandemic

Decision on membership dues – 10 February 2021

The IUCN Members, by electronic vote taking place from 27 January to 10 February 2021:

On the proposal of the Council,

1. Approved the IUCN Membership Dues Guide in accordance with Article 20 (f) of the Statutes (Annex hereafter); and
2. Mandated the 2021–2024 Council to:
 - CONTINUE THE WORK achieved by the 2016–2020 Council on:
 - a. the issue of dues for venue-based organisations and government agencies;
 - b. the issue of the value of membership and Members facing difficult financial situations and not being able to pay their dues; and to
 - SUBMIT both proposals to IUCN Members by electronic vote before the next Congress.



Members facing difficult financial situations and unable to pay their full dues as a result of the pandemic

Dues payments analysis for 30 Members in Mexico (incl. ST), 1 in Poland and one in Vanuatu (incl. ST) who sent a request to waive their dues

Membership dues status

| | |
|---|----|
| Member dues paid up/incl. 2021: | 12 |
| Member dues paid up/incl. 2020: | 18 |
| Member dues unpaid for 2020 (and prior) - in rescission | 2 |

Payments processing (checked back to 2015)

| | |
|--|----|
| Regular payments (incl. 2 new Members) | 21 |
| Irregular payments (incl. Mexico and Vanuatu States & 2 Members in rescission) | 11 |

Membership dues status (for all Members)

| Dues status | #Members | in order (dues paid up to/incl.2020) | not in order (not eligible to vote) | % not in order |
|-----------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| May 2021 | 1472 | 1252 | 219 | 15% |
| May 2020 | 1348 | 1169 | 179 | 13% |
| May 2019 | 1378 | 1133 | 245 | 18% |

Financial results Jan-April 2021 (actuals)

| | |
|------|-------------|
| 2021 | 6.6 M (CHF) |
| 2020 | 5.2 M (CHF) |



Members facing difficult financial situations and unable to pay their full dues as a result of the pandemic

Members with rescinded rights

| Category | Bangkok 2004 | Barcelona 2008 | Jeju 2012 | Hawai'I 2016 | Online vote 2018 | Online vote 2021 |
|---|--------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|
| States | 11 | 14 | 10 | 17 | 6 | 12 |
| Government Agencies | 11 | 7 | 12 | 14 | 15 | 13 |
| National NGOs | 106 | 89 | 91 | 111 | 57 | 83 |
| International NGOs | 10 | 3 | 6 | 13 | 1 | 4 |
| Indigenous Peoples' organisations | | | | | | 1 |
| Affiliates | 7 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 3 |
| Members on the rescission list | 145 | 115 | 122 | 161 | 82 | 116 |
| Total number of Members | 1,060 | 1,141 | 1,272 | 1,394 | 1,461 | 1,461 |
| Percentage of Members on the rescission list | 13.7% | 10.1% | 9.6% | 11.5% | 5.6% | 7.9% |
| Total number of Members withdrawn one year after Congress | 80 | 87 | 78 | 87 | 53 | |
| Percentage withdrawn Members out of those from the rescission list | 55.2% | 75.7% | 63.9% | 54.0% | 64.6% | 0.0% |



Members facing difficult financial situations and unable to pay their full dues as a result of the pandemic

Legal considerations

(Summary of legal advice from January 2020)

- All IUCN Members have an obligation to pay their membership dues (Stat. 12 c) (iii) and Reg. 24); Membership dues contribute to the income of IUCN (Stat. 85)
- The Statutes do not foresee any exception to this rule that would apply in exceptional circumstances. To the contrary, the non-respect of such obligations triggers the same consequences for all IUCN Members.
- The suspension of the right of Members in connecting with elections, voting and motion and the withdrawal of members whose right have been rescinded by the Congress decision is automatic (Stat. 13). Council has no margin of appreciation. Council may however decide the date of submission of rescission list to online vote (every 2 years).
- The criteria for the application of Stat. 48 are not met. Figures show that circumstances are not exceptional compared to previous years. Granting an exception would have an impact on the financial plan already approved by IUCN Members, it would be in contradiction with the Members' decision (Jan. 2021) giving a mandate to the next Council and would set a precedent.



INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

96th Meeting of the Bureau of the IUCN Council

Held by conference call on 14 July 2021 from 2 to 5 PM UTC

Extract from the Summary Minutes

[...]

Agenda Item 3: Members facing difficult financial situations and unable to pay their full dues as a result of the pandemic

The IUCN President recalled that on 21 June, the Bureau decided to propose to Council on 22 June that it submit a motion to Congress for approval during the 1st sitting of the Members' Assembly allowing postponement of dues for the Members facing financial distress as a direct result of the pandemic. This would require a mechanism allowing Members to apply in advance of the Congress so that, if the motion is approved by Congress, the Members whose application was successful, can exercise their Member rights during Congress. However, the Council meeting of 22 June was adjourned before the Bureau's proposal could be presented for discussion.

The Director General advised Council and Bureau to stick to the normal procedures for the following reasons:

1. Legal concerns: according to the views of the Legal Adviser expressed at the previous Bureau meeting, the Statutes provide no space for a decision of Council or the Secretariat to lift the requirement to pay the dues nor to undo the suspension of a Member's rights as a result of non-payment;
2. Logistical concerns: in the short period before Congress the Secretariat has no capacity to design and implement new procedures;
3. Political concerns: the Secretariat should not be taking the decision whether to agree or disagree with a Member that its non-payment of dues is directly related to Covid. The Secretariat should not be put in a situation where it risks to be blamed for granting some Members the right to vote while denying it to others.

The Global Director Union Development Group added that, in February 2021, IUCN Members already adopted the Council motion approving the Dues Guide 2022-24 including a mandate to the next Council to continue examining the issues of Members facing financial difficulties and unable to pay the dues. In addition, following the introduction of the new method of calculating the dues adopted by Council, the Secretariat is already analysing approximately 600 financial statements which it has received from as many Members. To adopt a new procedure would mean to undo a lot of work already undertaken. Of the 32 Members who requested consideration of the difficulty to pay their dues, 30 have already paid the 2020 dues.

During the discussion, the following points were made:

- A member of the Bureau advised to let the Secretariat and next Council roll out the processes already agreed by Council and not to create new problems at this late moment prior to Congress;
- Other members of the Bureau emphasized the need to be responsive to exceptional circumstances facing a number of Members. The assumption is that it would only apply to a very small number of Members which may include those Members which have already written with a request but possibly also others who have not done so.
- A Bureau member observed that Council and the Secretariat have, for far too long, been unsympathetic to Members not able to pay their dues. The pandemic makes this a breaking point for many of them.

- Discussing the technicalities of the proposal, the Bureau members supporting it considered that it might require an amendment to the existing procedures to allow for exceptional circumstances. The Secretariat would not be asked to make a determination about the validity of an application, as Members should be honour-bound to make the appropriate request based on the exceptional circumstances and it will be incumbent upon Council to accept it. This exceptional situation will require decisions to be taken applying wisdom more than strict criteria.

The Director General observed that the Statutes do not allow for such a decision but that Bureau and Council take the decisions they consider necessary and explain them to the Congress. However, the Director General requests that Council makes the determination in each case. While it will provide to Council the required administrative support, the Secretariat will not have the capacity nor the right to make the determinations.

The IUCN President concluded that, with one abstention, there was agreement in the Bureau to approve the proposal. The proposal only concerns the 2020 dues and is conditional upon payment of the dues of all previous years. It is based on the exceptional circumstances defined Article 48 of the Statutes. The Council should work with the Secretariat when implementing the decision in a reasonable and prudent manner.

BUREAU DECISION B96/4

The Bureau of the IUCN Council,

Having considered the requests from a number of IUCN Members facing financial difficulties as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic,

Decides to present to the IUCN Council for decision by email ballot, together with the background material provided by the Secretariat, a proposal that Council, based on Article 48 of the Statutes in light of the exceptional circumstances created by the pandemic, submits to the IUCN World Conservation Congress (Marseille, 3-10 September 2021) for approval of a motion granting postponement of the obligation to pay the 2020 dues to IUCN Members which have been in arrears of paying them as a direct result from the pandemic, and provided they have paid the dues for all previous years, so that these Members may exercise their membership rights during the upcoming Congress;

Requests the Secretariat, if Council so decides, to develop a mechanism to identify IUCN Members meeting the requirements of Council's proposal to Congress in time for the Bureau to approve the mechanism as well as the text of the Council motion.

96th Meeting of the Bureau of the IUCN Council, 14 July 2021

List of attendees¹

PRESIDENT

- Zhang Xinsheng

VICE-PRESIDENTS

- John Robinson
- Ana Tiraă

TREASURER

- Nihal Welikala

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMISSION CHAIRS

[Antonio Benjamin, Chair of the World Commission on Environmental Law, had sent apologies]

CHAIRS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE IUCN COUNCIL

- Jennifer Mohamed-Katerere, Governance and Constituency Committee (GCC)
- Ayman Rabi, Finance and Audit Committee (FAC)
- Jan Olov Westerberg, Programme and Policy Committee (PPC)

REGIONAL COUNCILLORS

- Mamadou Diallo
- Jenny Gruenberger

DIRECTOR GENERAL

- Bruno Oberle

OTHER PARTICIPANTS:

Enrique Lahmann, Global Director Union Development Group and Congress Director

Louise Imbsen, Governance Assistant

Luc De Wever, Senior Governance Manager, Secretary to Council

Pamela Grasemann, Congress Manager (Item 2)

¹ Bureau members who left the meeting before it was finished had given a proxy to another member of the Bureau. During the discussion of agenda items 1 and 2, nine Bureau members were present or represented by proxy. During the discussion of Agenda Item 3, five members of the Bureau were present and two represented by proxy.